

HAROLD. I INTERVIEWED JAMES EARL RAY, GERALD RAY, PAUL AND I HAVE
MET MANY WHO TALKED TO ME IN THE CITY. I AM INTERVIEWING FARMERS, THE
A STUDENT ACCIDENT BY THE NAME OF
THE TENNESSEAN, Thursday, March 18, 1982 3

Author Calls JFK Autopsy Report 'Forgery'

By MICHAEL HIGHERS

Tennessee State Correspondent

MURFREESBORO — "The author of a book critical of the Warren Commission's inquiry into President Kennedy's assassination told an audience at Middle Tennessee State University that investigations should continue."

Kennedy researcher David Lifton, author of *Best Evidence: Disguise and Deception in the Assassination of John F. Kennedy*, lambasted the official autopsy report on the President as a "medical forgery."

LIFTON insists that the wounds on Kennedy's body when it left Dallas were profoundly different from those observed by doctors at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland, where the official autopsy was performed.

Speaking here Tuesday night, Lifton said:

"What I want you to learn is that the issue is not who conspired to shoot the President, but who conspired to obstruct justice — who took the bullets out of the body."

LIFTON said his theory is that some group — doctors possibly at the behest of the Secret Service — removed the bullets and enlarged the head wound to change from front-to-back to back-to-front the trajectory of the shot that entered Kennedy's skull.

The back-to-front trajectory

would support the case against Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin, he said.

Currently working on his second book on the assassination, Lifton uses to support his main thesis evidence he uncovered indicating that the size of the head wound Kennedy suffered was smaller than that observed by Commander James J. Humes, the chief pathologist at Bethesda.

QUOTING from Warren Commission testimony given by Dr. Robert McClelland, at Dallas' Parkland Hospital, Lifton read:

"I noted that the right posterior [rear] portion of the skull had been extremely blasted...you could look down into the skull cavity...posterior cerebral tissue and some cerebellar tissue had been blasted out."

Lifton insisted this version — similar to that of Drs. Malcolm Perry and Kemp Clark, a neurosurgeon, varies significantly from the official autopsy report. Clark described a wound to the

back of the president's head about three by three centimeters, which Lifton likened to "the size of an egg."

According to Lifton, an autopsy diagram made by Dr. Thornton Boswell showed a hole in the skull 10 by 17 centimeters large.

WITH THE help of his publisher, Lifton filmed interviews with three Navy corpsmen on duty the night of the autopsy — none of whom had ever been interviewed by the Warren Commission. The film was shown as part of Lifton's lecture.

One of the men, laboratory technologist Paul O'Connor, told Lifton he saw the body arrive in

a body bag, while Warren Commission testimony had showed it had been sent from Dallas wrapped in sheets.

"There was no brain to be removed — all the brain was blown out," O'Connor said. "I said 'My God, there's no brain — it's all gone.' "

ADDING TO the mystery of the missing brain is a report filed by FBI agents Francis O'Neill and James Sibert, who observed the autopsy to receive any bullets recovered from the body.

Lifton flashed a slide on a screen which showed a a portion

of the statement: "...it was apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed as well as *surgery of the head area, namely in the top of the skull.*"

Lifton emphasized that no Dallas doctor had performed any surgery on Kennedy's head.

A native of New York, Lifton, 43, graduated from Cornell University School of Engineering, and first became interested in the assassination while attending UCLA Graduate School of Engineering Physics. After hearing several contradictory lectures on the assassination, he eventually gave up engineering to research and write his first book.